GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:709
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2006
MULLA PERIYAR PROJECT
Karunakaran Shri P.;Thomas Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the disastrous consequences as a result of proposed raising of height of Mulla Periyar Dam in Kerala by the Government of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government would intervene in the matter and prevail upon the Government of Tamil Nadu to settle the issue amicably; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the stage at which the matter stands as on date?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRYOF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (c) As per the Judgement of Hon`ble Supreme Court dated 27th February, 2006 in the transfer petitions filed by the state of Tamil Nadu and Shri Subramanian Swamy in 1998, the State Government of Tamil Nadu is permitted to raise the water level in Mulla Periyar Dam from 136 Feet(ft.) to 142 Feet. The Judgment has rejected the argument that has been put forward by the Kerala Government regarding safety of the dam. Kerala Government passed the Kerala Irrigation and Water Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2006 which prohibits raising of water level beyond 136 ft. in the Mulla Periyar Dam. It was placed under the Schedule of `Endangered Dams`. Government of Tamil Nadu filed a Suit (No.3 of 2006) in Hon`ble Supreme Court praying for:

Declaration of said Act as unconstitutional in its application to & effect on Mulla Periyar Dam.
Pass a decree restraining Kerala from obstructing Tamil Nadu from increasing water to 142 ft. and from carrying out repair works.

The Original Suit No.3 of 2006 was called for hearing on 26.9.2006 when the Hon`ble Supreme Court passed the following Order. `The two State Governments independently or with intervention of the Union of India may try to sort out, if possible, the dispute.` The Hon`ble Minister (WR) has convened a meeting on Mulla Periyar at the level of Chief Minister of the States of Tamil Nadu & Kerala at New Delhi on 29th November, 2006 in pursuance of the said Order of the Court.